

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 02692 01 OF 02 041813Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
OMB-01 ACDA-07 SIL-01 LAB-04 /071 W  
-----041831Z 055092 /44

R 041704Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0836  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMCONSUL OPORTO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA  
USMISSION NATO  
DIA WASHDC  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 2692

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4  
TAGS: PINT, PO  
SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: EANES INCREASES ROLE

REF: (A) LISBON 2473 (DTG 281824Z MAR 76), (B) IR 6 879 0145  
77 (DTG 011630Z APR 77)(NOTAL), (C) LISBON 2663 (NOTAL),  
(D) LISBON 2597 (NOTAL), (E) LISBON A-101 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT EANES CONTINUED TO SHOW INCREASING  
WILLINGNESS TO ASSERT HIS AUTHORITY. HE REFUSED TO ACCEPT  
THE GOVERNMENT'S NOMINEE AS ATTORNEY GENERAL AND HAS NOT  
BACKED AWAY FROM NOMINATION OF NEW VICE CHIEF OF THE ARMED  
FORCES GENERAL STAFF IN THE FACE OF DIMINISHING BUT STRONG  
OPPOSITION WITHIN THE MILITARY. LATTER APPOINTMENT IS SEEN BY  
CLOSE OBSERVERS AS POLITICAL-MILITARY SCENE AS DESIGNED TO  
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PAGE 02 LISBON 02692 01 OF 02 041813Z

LEAVE EANES FREE TO DEVOTE MORE TIME TO POLITICAL MATTERS.  
END SUMMARY.

1. CONTROVERSY OVER NEW ARMED FORCES VICE CHIEF OF STAFF:  
GRUMBLING OVER EANES'S APPOINTMENT OF LTC LOUREIRO DOS SANTOS  
AS VICE CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF IS DYING  
DOWN (REF A AND B). LTC DOS SANTOS'S SWEARING-IN IS EXPECTED AT

THE END OF THE WEEK. ATTENDANCE AT SWEARING-IN WILL BE WATCHED CLOSELY AS SIGN OF HOW STRONG OPPOSITION AGAINST APPOINTMENT REALLY IS. UNHAPPINESS IN THE UPPER RANKS CONTINUES BUT HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY CALMED BY EANES'S INSISTENCE ON THE APPOINTMENT AND BY THE MILITARY'S DISCOVERY THAT DOS SANTOS, ACCORDING TO THE LAW REGULATING THE ARMED FORCES, WILL NOT BE THE SECOND RANKING OFFICER IN THE ARMED FORCES AFTER EANES. THE SERVICE CHIEF WITH THE MOST SENIORITY, IN THIS CASE NAVY CHIEF OF STAFF SOUTO CRUZ, IS THE NUMBER TWO.

2. REASONS FOR APPOINTMENT: CLOSE OBSERVERS OF THE POLITICAL-MILITARY SCENE NOW TEND TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSITION THAT EANES WANTS DOS SANTOS IN ORDER TO FREE HIMSELF TO DEVOTE MORE TIME TO POLITICAL MATTERS. THIS VIEW IS ADVANCED AGAINST A BACKGROUND IN WHICH DOS SANTOS'S COMPETENCE AND PERSONAL LOYALTY TO EANES ARE TAKEN AS GIVEN. ON THE OTHER HAND, CPT TOMAS ROSA, FORMER LABOR MINISTER AND RTP PRESIDENT, COMMENTED TO LABATT THAT APPOINTMENT, IN HIS OPINION, RESPONDED TO EANES'S NEED TO HAVE SOMEBODY ON REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL CAPABLE OF COUNTERING MELO ANTUNES'S POLITICAL ARGUMENTS.

3. EANES REJECTS APPOINTMENT: PRESIDENT EANES SWORE-IN EDUARDO ARALA CHAVES APRIL 2 AS ATTORNEY GENERAL AFTER REJECTING THE GOVERNMENT'S NOMINEE. CHAVES, A RESPECTED JURIST, IS NOTED FOR HAVING RULED AGAINST SEVERAL CONTROVERSIAL DECREES OF THE CAETANO GOVERNMENT. SPEAKING AT THE APRIL 2 SWEARING-IN CEREMONY, EANES CALLED FOR FULFILLMENT OF THE LAW WITHOUT REGARD FOR POLITICAL AFFILIATION OR SOCIAL BACKGROUND. HE URGED THE CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITIES TO CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LISBON 02692 01 OF 02 041813Z

PROCEED IMMEDIATELY TO REVISE THE LEGAL CODE. THE PRESIDENT HAD EARLIER REJECTED TO RECOMMENDATION OF THE JUSTICE MINISTRY THAT HE APPOINT LEFT-WING SOCIALIST LAWYER MANUEL JOAO DA PALMA CARLOS. EANES ALSO REPORTEDLY REFUSED A SUBSEQUENT REQUEST THAT HE APPOINT PALMA CARLOS AMBASSADOR TO CUBA (REF E).

4. ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONSTITUTION: THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE PORTUGUESE CONSTITUTION WAS MARKED BY A FORMAL CEREMONY AT THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BUILDING. NEATLY TURNING AROUND A PCP ATTEMPT TO POSE AS THE PRIME DEFENDERS OF THE CONSTITUTION, ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT VASCO DA GAMA FERNANDES AND OTHER SPEAKERS RECALLED THE COMMUNIST-INSPIRED NOV 1975 BLOCKADE OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AND COMMUNIST EFFORTS TO IMPEDE THE WORK OF THE ASSEMBLY. DA GAMA'S SPEECH WAS COMPLEMENTED BY ARTICLES IN THE NON-COMMUNIST PRESS AND A SPECIAL ON NATIONAL TELEVISION RECALLING PCP HOSTILITY TO THE PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM.

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PAGE 01 LISBON 02692 02 OF 02 041822Z  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LISBON 2692

5. STRAIGHT TALK FROM MINISTER OF LABOR. NEW LABOR MINISTER  
MALDONADO GONELHA CONTINUED HIS TOUGH LINE (REFS C AND D).  
IN A APRIL 2 STATEMENT, MALDONADO GONELHA MADE THE FOLLOWING  
POINTS:

- STRIKES ARE ONE THING; ECONOMIC SABOTAGE IS SOMETHING  
ELSE. THE GOVERNMENT WILL SUBMIT NEW STRIKE LEGISLATION  
TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO REPLACE THE CURRENT STRIKE LAW.
- REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THERE IS AN AGREEMENT, A CONTRACT,  
OR AN UNDERSTANDING, WE WILL NOT PERMIT THE TOURIST INDUSTRY  
TO BE HAMPERED BY LABOR DISTURBANCES.
- RE THE SOCIAL PACT, THE LABOR POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT  
MUST BE SUBORDINATE TO ECONOMIC POLICY. HE MUST CONSIDER  
IT FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF A MEMBER OF GOVERNMENT AND NOT  
JUST AS MINISTER OF LABOR.
- SYSTEMATIC HOSTILITY TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR WILL GET US

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PAGE 02 LISBON 02692 02 OF 02 041822Z

NOWHERE. IN THIS COUNTRY, BEING AN "ENTREPRENEUR TODAY IS ALMOST LIKE BEING A CRIMINAL."

-- THE GOVERNMENT WILL GOVERN. HE IS A MEMBER OF A DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO EXERCISE AUTHORITY IN THE NAME OF THE PEOPLE.

-- ALTHOUGH HIS TEAM IN THE MINISTRY IS OPEN TO DIALOGUE, ONCE A POLICY IS DECIDED, IT WILL NOT BE CHANGED.

-- THE POSSIBLE CREATION OF A SECOND LABOR CONFEDERATION IS "A FALSE PROGRAM." A CONFEDERATION IS A COORDINATING ORGAN, IT IS FIRST NECESSARY TO HAVE TRULY DEMOCRATIC UNIONS AND ONLY AFTERWARDS DOES THE PROBLEM OF COORDINATING THESE UNIONS ARISE.

-- THE CGTP DOMINATES THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT BUT IT IS ONE THING TO CONTROL THE APPARATUS AND ANOTHER TO HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE WORKERS. WITH OUR CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES AND OUR FORTHCOMING RATIFICATION OF ILO CONVENTION 87, WHOEVER HAS THE WORKERS' SUPPORT HAS THE LABOR MOVEMENT. IF THE CGTP APPARATUS OPPOSES THE RATIFICATION, IT IS FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT IT IS AGAINST A DEMOCRATIC AND AUTONOMOUS LABOR MOVEMENT.

6. PCP DAILY "O DIARIO" STRONGLY ATTACKED MALDONADO GONELHA IN A FRONT PAGE STATEMENT APRIL 4 ALLEGING THAT HE IS STARTING AN ANTI-COMMUNIST CAMPAIGN.

7. COMMENT: EANES'S INSISTENCE ON DOS SANTOS, HIS NEED FOR MORE TIME TO DEVOTE TO POLITICAL MATTERS, AND HIS REFUSAL TO ACCEPT PALMA CARLOS AS ATTORNEY GENERAL ARE FURTHER INDICATIONS OF AN INCREASING WILLINGNESS TO ASSERT HIS AUTHORITY, A WILLINGNESS EVIDENT IN HIS ROLE IN THE RECENT CABINET CHANGES.  
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## Message Attributes

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